

Attachment B

Initiative Name and Acronym - National On-Farm Energy Initiative (NOFEI)

Initiative Description/Summary: Under the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Title II, Subtitle F – EQIP, Section 2501 provides authority for use of EQIP (as a national purpose) to specifically address energy conservation through practice implementation and for development of an Agricultural Energy Management Plan. During fiscal year (FY) 2013, the program is designed to assist producers in two ways:

- 1) Identify ways to conserve energy on their farms through an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) conservation activity plan (CAP), also known as an on-farm energy audit; and also
- 2) Provide assistance to implement various recommended measures through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative, such as the Farmstead Energy Improvement 374.

Only through implementation of recommended measures and conservation practices will energy conservation, efficiency, and savings be achieved.

Approved or Participating States:

- All States and Territories

Program Contact Information:

Andrea Clarke at (202) 720-5927; andrea.clarke@wdc.usda.gov

ProTracts Requirements:

1. **Subaccount Guidance:**

A single subaccount has been created in ProTracts to support the NOFEI called “FY 13 On-Farm Energy” using the account type “On-Farm Energy”. No additional subaccounts may be established at the State or Local level to further support the NOFEI.

2. **Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Choice Lists and Matrix Data:**

- a. Approved Land Types – States must assign the following applicable land types as eligible for this initiative:

Cropland
Pasture
Grazed Range
Native/Naturalized Pasture
Headquarters

Note: No additional land types may be added or used to support this initiative.

- b. Approved Natural Resource Concerns:

Energy
Inefficient Energy Use – Equipment and Facilities Energy
Inefficient Energy Use – Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

Note: No additional resource concerns may be added or used in ProTracts AERT to support this initiative.

Attachment B

- c. Core Practices Required to be offered for this initiative:

Practice Name	Practice Code
Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Headquarters	122
Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Landscape	124
Farmstead Energy Improvement	374
Irrigation Water Management	449
Pumping Plant	533

- d. Supporting Practices that States may offer to support this initiative:

Practice Name	Practice Code
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Cover Crop	340
Irrigation Reservoir	436
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	345
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/ Strip Till/ Direct Seed	329
Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	346
Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment	380

- e. AERT Matrix – State shall populate the appropriate core and supporting practices in the ProTracts AERT tool and associate the following resource concerns as shown in the following table(s).

NRCS Approved Resource Concerns		Inefficient Energy Use		Inefficient Energy Use –	
NRCS Natural Resource Concern Categories for ProTracts Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool (AERT) "C" = Core practice (Bold) required to be offered. "X" - Supporting practices are optional to be offered		Equipment and Facilities Energy	Rationale	Farming/ Ranching Practices and Field Operations	Rationale
Conservation Practice	Code				
Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Headquarters	122	N/A		N/A	
Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Landscape	124	N/A		N/A	
Farmstead Energy Improvement	374	C	Identified in AgEMP-HQ or On-Farm Energy Audit		
Conservation Crop Rotation	328			X	Inclusion of legumes in crop rotation can reduce need for nitrogen inputs
Cover Crop	340			X	Legume cover crops can reduce nitrogen inputs
Irrigation Reservoir	436			X	Allows for off peak or night time irrigation, will can result in reduced energy use for pumping
Irrigation Water Management	449			C	Improvement of Irrigation Efficiency can result in reduced

Attachment B

					energy use for pumping
Pumping Plant	533	C	Identified in AgEMP-HQ or On-Farm Energy Audit	C	Identified in AgEMP-Landscape and Efficient pumping plant reduces energy use
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	345			X	Few tillage trips across the field and Less horsepower requirements
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/ Strip Till/ Direct Seed	329			X	No tillage operations, fewer trips across the field
Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	346			X	Fewer tillage passes and less aggressive tillage
Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment	380	X	Reduces heating around farmsteads		

3. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Ranking Criteria Questions:

The total ranking points associated with this initiative are to be distributed in AERT and approved ranking questions as follows:

AERT Level	Maximum Points	Point Percentage
National Level Ranking Questions	250	25%
State Level Ranking Questions	400	40%
Local Level Ranking Questions	250	25%
Efficiency Score	100	10%
Total Points for this initiative:	1,000	100%

4. Additional Initiative Guidance:

- a. Capturing Energy Benefits – An “Energy Benefits” button is available in ProTracts in order to capture the estimated energy savings for certain practices. As part of the NOFEI, this button must be checked “yes” for all contract items which are being implemented based on the recommendations provided as part of a completed on-farm energy audit. Checking “yes” will require the user to enter the numeric values for the estimated energy savings from the completed on-farm energy audit as well as information on green-house gases and air pollutants directly associated with the energy savings.

Note: The “Energy Benefits” should be checked “no” for AgEMP CAP applications since energy savings do not occur unless the recommended measures provided in an AgEMP CAP report are implemented.

5. The following are detailed instructions for populating ranking questions and points in ProTracts AERT.

National Level Ranking Criteria Requirements:

National ranking criteria are established in ProTracts by the national office.

National priorities must account for 250 points or 25% of total points.

Only the following national level ranking criteria apply to this initiative. All other national ranking criteria not listed are not applicable and should be answered “No” by Designated Conservationists:

Attachment B

FY 2013 EQIP Ranking Criteria	
1.	If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.
	1a. The program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? <u>If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions.</u> If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section
3.	Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:
	3a. Decrease aquifer overdraft.
	3b. Conserve water with irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?
	3c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?
4.	Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from on-farm agricultural sources – Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:
	4b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?
	4c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?
8.	Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:
	8a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?
	8b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in AgEMP (122, 124)?
	8c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.
9.	Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:
	9a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?
	9b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?
	9c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?

Attachment B

State Level Ranking Criteria Requirements:

State ranking criteria are established by the national office, but entered into ProTracts by States. State level ranking criteria must account for a total of 400 points. To support this initiative, States must enter all the following State level criteria and points in ProTracts AERT for each approved subaccount.

2013 EQIP NOFI State Level Ranking Criteria	FY 2013 Points
1. 1. If the application is for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state level questions.	
1a: Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Agricultural Energy Management Plan (122 or 124)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400
2. Answer <u>both</u> of the following two questions regarding the producer's efforts to improve existing energy conservation systems in their farming operation.	
2a: Are the practices included in the schedule of operation included as recommendations in an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) also known as a Comprehensive Type 2 on-farm energy audit (that meets the ASABE S612 On-Farm energy audit standard) which has been conducted in the last four years?	100
2b: Is applicant using or has the applicant used a smart meter to monitor, evaluate, and or manage energy usage and time-of-use on their farming enterprise/operation?	50
3. Select <u>all appropriate</u> categories of major energy efficiency activities that apply to the contract for this applicant. Is the applicant going to install:	
3a: LIGHTING components (lamps, timers, sensors)?	10
3b: VENTILATION components (fans, control systems, variable drives, humidity control)?	10
3c: REFRIGERATION components (compressor, evaporator/chiller, motor, insulation)?	10
3d: MILK HARVESTING components (pumps, motors, controllers)?	10
3e: CONTROLLERS components (master system automation)?	10
3f: OTHER MOTORS/PUMPS components (types, compressors)?	10
3g: AIR HEATING/BUILDING ENVIRONMENT components (heater, insulation, recovery, variable drives)?	10
3h: DRYING components (air flow, handling equipment)?	10
3i: WASTE HANDLING components (collection and dispersal equipment/methods)?	10
3j: AIR COOLING (airflow, control systems, evaporative)?	10
3k: WATER MANAGEMENT components (wells, reservoir, recycled)?	10
3l: IRRIGATION components (motors/engines, pumps)?	10
3m: AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES that use more energy efficient <u>engine driven equipment</u> (i.e., planting, tilling, harvesting, etc.)?	10
3n: CROP/FEED STORAGE components?	10
3o: MATERIAL HANDLING (equipment, motors, pumps) components?	10

Attachment B

4. If appropriate, answer <u>one</u> of the following three questions regarding conservation practices offered in the EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative:	
4a: Application includes <u>three or more</u> core or supporting conservation practice offered in the Initiative.	50
4b: Application includes <u>two</u> core or supporting conservation practice offered in the Initiative.	15
4c: Application includes <u>one</u> core or supporting conservation practice offered in the Initiative.	10
5. If appropriate, answer <u>one</u> of the following three questions regarding percent of energy savings based on the measures/practices <u>producer intends to install</u>. <u>Percentage energy savings</u> = (total estimated energy saved / total current energy usage).	
5a: Will the recommended measures/practices (to be installed through this contract) achieve a total estimated percent reduction in energy use (i.e., % energy savings) greater than 40%?	50
5b: Will the recommended measures/practices (to be installed through this contract) achieve a total estimated percent reduction in energy use (i.e., % energy savings) between 40% and 25%?	15
5c: Will the recommended measures/practices (to be installed through this contract) achieve a total estimated percent reduction in energy use (i.e., % energy savings) between 24 and 5%?	10
Total Points:	400

Local Level Ranking Criteria Requirements:

Most local ranking criteria are approved and entered into ProTracts at the State level.

Local level ranking criteria must account for a total of 250 points or at least 25% of total points available. States must establish a maximum point total of 250 in ProTracts AERT. Each state MUST enter the following criteria #1 in the ProTracts Local level category in ProTracts:

2013 EQIP NOFEI Local Level Ranking Criteria	FY 2013 Points
1. If the application is for the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local level questions.	
1a. Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared Agricultural Energy Management Plan (122 or 124)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250

States will develop all other local ranking criteria.

Cost Effectiveness Calculation:

By agency policy, the amount of points associated with the AERT cost efficiency calculation must be 100 points or 10% of total points available.

Attachment B

Screening Criteria Requirements:

The following screening criteria shall be used to support this initiative.

**NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
National On-Farm Energy Initiative
NATIONAL SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET - Fiscal Year 2013**
A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP application.

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative assistance. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, application periods are established for purposes of evaluation, ranking, and funding decisions.

Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (high, medium, and low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.

Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP Applicant

Applicant Name:		County:	
Application No:		Field Office:	
Evaluator Name:		Date:	

Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select One:

High Priority Category:

The application is for an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (122 or 124);

Or

The application includes at least 1 “Core” conservation practice necessary to implement the recommendations identified in a recently (within the last 4 years) completed Agricultural Energy Management Plan (122 or 124) or comprehensive on-farm energy audit meeting ASABE S612 Type 2 standard.

**High Priority
Status in
ProTracts**

Medium Priority Category:

The application includes 0 “Core” conservation practices but does include at least 1 “Supporting” conservation practice necessary to implement the recommendations identified in a recently (within the last 4 years) completed Agricultural Energy Management Plan (122 or 124) or comprehensive on-farm energy audit meeting ASABE S612 Type 2 standard.

**Medium
Priority Status
in ProTracts**

Low Priority Category: Low Priority Applications will not be ranked.

All other applications

**Low Priority
Status in
ProTracts**

The priority determination of high, medium or low must be recorded in ProTracts for this applicant.

D.C. Approval:		Date Approved:	
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